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Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

/073 W
---------- 086764
R 031058Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4527
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SF, XA
SUBJECT: VORSTER COMMENTS ON OAU MEETING AND
DETENTE IN AFRICA

1. SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AT
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY WAS DEVOTED TO SUBJECT OF DETENTE IN
AFRICA. VORSTER APPARENTLY MADE LITTLE MENTION OF
RHODESIA AND NONE OF NAMIBIA. HE DID NOT SPEAK FROM
PREPARED STATEMENT AND HIS OFFICE HAS SAID THAT TRANSCRIPT OF
HIS REMARKS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS. FOLLOW-
ING IS DRAWN FROM GENERALLY IMPRECISE PRESS ACCOUNTS.

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2. VORSTER NOTED THAT AT THEIR PARIL 7 MEETING AT DAR ES SALAAM,

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OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD CONSIDER SOUTH AFRICA AND
WOULD TAKE DECISIONS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA
AND TO THE CONTINENT AS A WHOLE. HE SAID OAU WOULD HAVE TO
DECIDE ON WHICH ROAD IT WOULD EMBARK--PEACE AND COOPERATION
OR CONFRONTATION.

3. VORSTER TALKED OF HIS VENTURE INTO PERSONAL DIPLOMACY
AND SAID HIS TRAVELS HAD SHOWN HIM THE VALUE OF FACE-TO-FACE
CONTACTS. IN HIS TRAVELS IN AFRICA HE HAD FOUND "RESPECT
FOR SOUTH AFRICA" AND A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF AFRICAN
STATES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH HER. HE SAID, "BRIDGES
HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO AFRICA." MANY OF THESE WOULD REMAIN
EVEN IF DAR TALKS WENT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. SERIOUS
SETBACKS TO DETENTE COULD LIE AHEAD, BUT EVENTUALLY
REALISM WOULD PREVAIL.

4. REALITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S FAVOR INCLUDED ECONOMIC
NEEDS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND SOUTH AFRICA'S ABILITY TO
PROVIDE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION,
SOUTH AFRICA COULD SELL MORE GOODS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES MORE
CHEAPLY THAN OTHER SOURCES COULD. MOREOVER, SOME MEMBER STATES
OF UNITED NATIONS HAD GONE TOO FAR IN THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL AND AS A RESULT HAD WEAKENED THE
CAUSE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH VORSTER STILL SEEMS TO HAVE EXAGGERATED
CONCEPTION OF AFRICANS' ACCEPTANCE OF HIS SEPARATE
DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, HIS STELLENBOSCH SPEECH INDICATES
THAT SOME OF HIS EARLY EUPHORIA STEMMING FROM HIS MEETINGS
WITH AFRICAN LEADERS HAS DIMINISHED. HE SEEMS FULLY AWARE
THAT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS OBVIOUSLY
COULD PRODUCE CONDEMNATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S DOMESTIC
POLICIES AND ITS FAILURE TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO DISENGAGE
FROM NAMIBIA. NEVERTHELESS, VORSTER'S REMARKS SHOW THAT
HE CONTINUES TO VIEW HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE BETTER RELATIONSJ
WITH AFRICAN STATES AS WORTHWHILE AND THAT DETENTE WITH
AFRICA REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY.
HURD

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